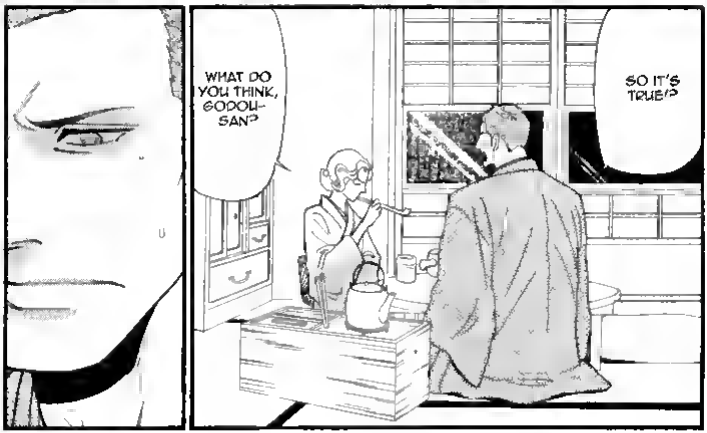
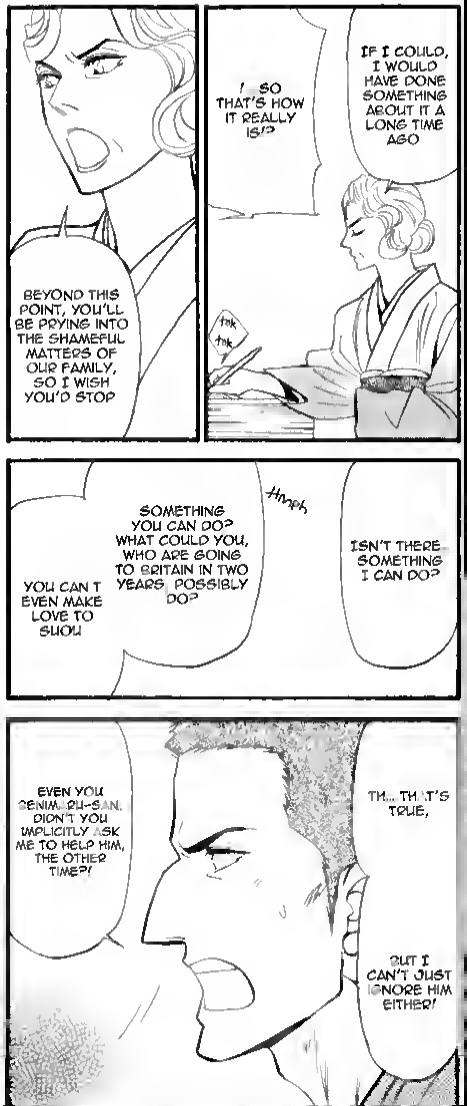
—THAT IS,
—SUOU AND... YOUR SECOND SON, CHOUJI-KUN,
JUST WHAT HAS HAPPENED BETWEEN THEM?
ALSO, WHAT ABOUT THAT DOUBLE SUICIDE ATTEMPT WITH SUOU'S BROTHER-IN-LAW...?
OH PLEASE WHERE DID YOU HEAR THOSE THINGS?
WELL, THE SCANDALS OF OUR HOUSE ARE NOTORIOUS IN THE DRY GOODS STORES DISTRICT.


SO IT'S TRUE!?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, GODOU-SAN?


BEYOND THIS POINT, YOU'LL BE PRYING INTO THE SHAMEFUL MATTERS OF OUR FAMILY, SO I WISH YOU'D STOP
! SO THAT'S HOW IT REALLY IS!?
IF I COULD, I WOULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING ABOUT IT A LONG TIME AGO
tink tink
YOU CAN'T EVEN MAKE LOVE TO SUOU
SOMETHING YOU CAN DO? WHAT COULD YOU, WHO ARE GOING TO BRITAIN IN TWO YEARS, POSSIBLY DO?
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO?
EVEN YOU GENIMARU-SAN, DIDN'T YOU IMPLICITLY ASK ME TO HELP HIM, THE OTHER TIME?!
TH... THAT'S TRUE,
BUT I CAN'T JUST IGNORE HIM EITHER!

IF THEY HAVE THAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP
SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE
THEIR ATTACHMENT TO EACH OTHER IS STRANGE
THEY'RE BROTHERS SO OF COURSE THEY WILL LOVE EACH OTHER
SUI...
I SENSE SOMETHING UNHEALTHY ABOUT IT...
CHAPTER 9

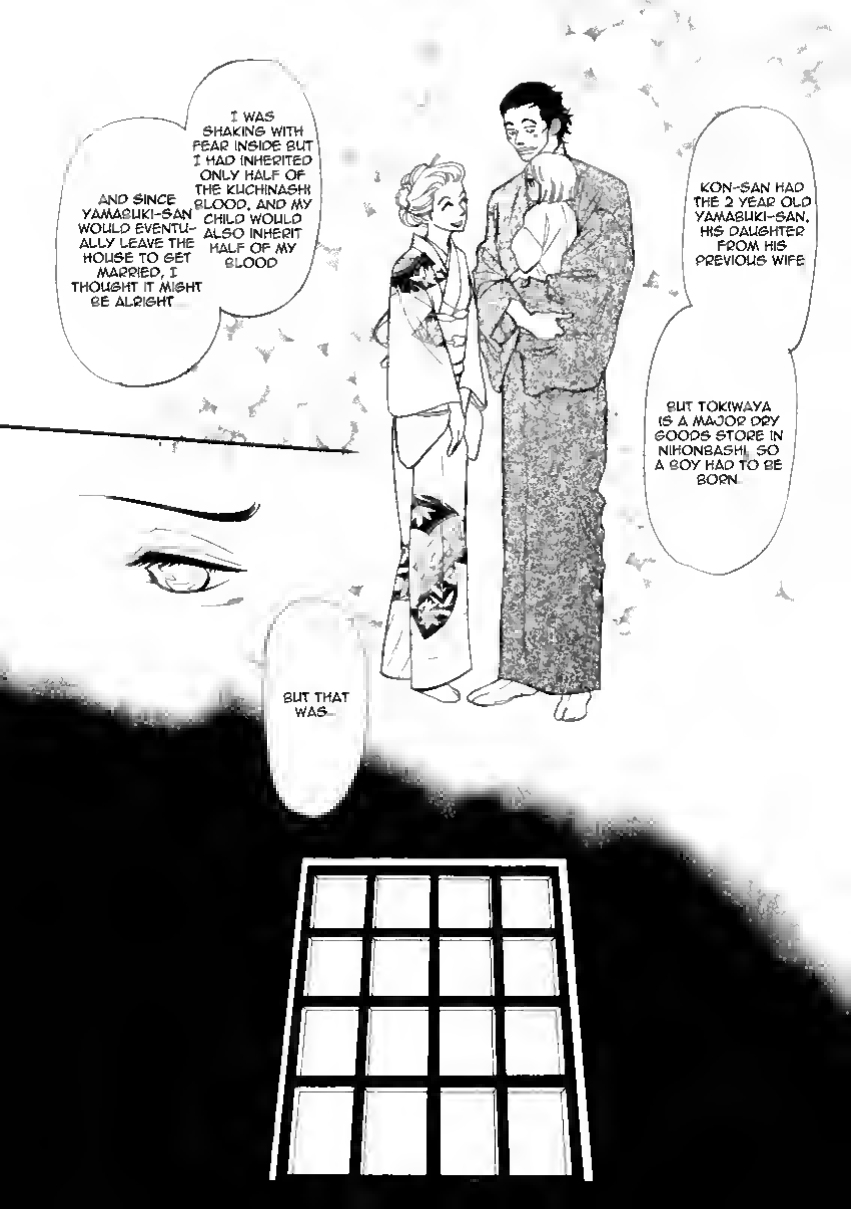
OH, THAT I SAID THAT HOPING THAT MAYBE YOU COULD BECOME SUOU'S LOVER
BUT YOU REJECTED HIM, DIDN'T YOU? IT'S HOPELESS AFTER ALL
THAT'S TRUE... BUT...
STILL, I CAN'T IGNORE HIM!
WHY IS THAT? FOR MY SAKE?
IF THAT'S THE CASE YOUR CONCERN IS UNNEEDED
THERE'S- THERE'S THAT TOO...
THERE'S THAT TOO BUT...
WHY ARE YOU SO CONCERNED ABOUT THAT BOY?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF...
DO YOU SHOW SUCH COMPASSION TO JUST ABOUT ANYONE?

NO MATTER HOW CUTE HE IS HE'S A MAN
IT ISN'T LIKE HE'S A PET IF I CAN'T LOOK AFTER HIM THEN I SHOULDN'T PICK HIM UP
NO THAT'S
THAT'S THAT'S NOT
THAT'S RIGHT WHY AM I SO OBSESSED WITH HIM?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT THAT THING, WHEN YOU TALK TO A CATHOLIC PRIEST ABOUT YOUR WORRIES WHAT WAS IT CALLED AGAIN?
IF THERE'S A CHANCE THEN IT'S FINE I COULD TRY TELLING HIM THE WHOLE STORY WITHOUT HOLDING ANYTHING BACK, AFTER ALL THERE'S NOTHING TO LOSE
..I'LL TELL HIM

SHOU WON'T WAKE UP FOR A WHILE, AND WHO KNOWS IF CHOUJI WILL COME BACK HOME TONIGHT.
IF YOU'RE A PRIEST APPRENTICE, WON'T YOU LISTEN TO MY TROUBLES?
THAT, THAT...
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE CONFESSION? RATHER THAN ONE'S WORRIES, IT REFERS TO CONFESSING ONE'S MISTAKES OR SINS, AND REPENTING FOR THEM
YOU CAN'T TELL THIS TO ANYONE ELSE
PHEW
LET'S MAKE A PROMISE
THEN, PINKY SWEAR!
PINKY, PINKY, BOW-BELL, WHOEVER TELLS A LIE, WILL SINK DOWN TO THE BAD PLACE AND NEVER RISE UP AGAIN...

WHERE SHOULD I START FROM...
GODOU-SAN, WHY DO YOU THINK PEOPLE ARE ATTRACTED TO BEAUTIFUL THINGS?
HUH?
ABOUT THAT... I DON'T KNOW... I'M PRETTY UNREFINED MYSELF
BUT NORMALLY, YOU LIKE BEAUTIFUL WOMEN, RIGHT?
WELL YES, NORMALLY...
THE NAME OF THE FAMILY I WAS BORN INTO WAS KUCHINASH!
I CAN'T TELL YOU THE EXACT LOCATION, BUT THEY LIVED IN A VILLAGE DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS
IT WAS A SMALL VILLAGE, IN WHICH THE VILLAGERS MADE A LIVING FROM SERICULTURE, AND THEY WERE ALL RELATED
EVERYONE, RE IT MAN OR WOMAN HAD INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL FACES. APPARENTLY, IT WAS DUBBED "THE VILLAGE OF CELESTIAL BEINGS" BY THE NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES
THEY INTERMINGLED OFTEN WITH OTHER VILLAGES. BUT THERE WERE EXTREMELY FEW CASES OF LEAVING THE VILLAGE OR ALLOWING OUTSIDERS IN
BECAUSE THE VILLAGERS SAID THAT THEY FELT MORE AT EASE WITH THE LOCALS

FOR A CHANGE, MY FATHER HAD COME TO THE VILLAGE FROM SOME OTHER PLACE, AND IN AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP AWAY FROM INCEST IN A FAMILY COMPRISED OF NEAR RELATIVES WHO ARE ATTRACTED TO EACH OTHER, HE SENT SOME OF HIS CHILDREN TO BE TAKEN CARE BY FOSTER FAMILIES IN OTHER VILLAGES
I THINK YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW THE CHILDREN WHO ARE BORN IN SUCH AN INSULAR PLACE TURN OUT.
IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG BEFORE THE VILLAGE STARTED DE-GENERATING
HOWEVER, MY FOSTER PARENTS— MY ADOPTIVE FATHER WAS AIMING TO RAPE ME. SO MY ADOPTIVE MOTHER, WHO DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THE SITUA-TION SOLD ME TO A PROCURER
UNAWARE OF THE DESTINATIONS OF MY OTHER SIBLINGS, I WAS ACCEPTED INTO THE ISHIKAWA FAMILY WHEN I WAS 8
TEN-SOMETHING YEARS AFTER THAT MY CON-TRACT WAS BOUGHT OUT BY KON-SAN. THE YOUNG MASTER OF THE YAGUCHI FAMILY, THE OWNERS OF THE "TOKIWAYA"
WELL, THIS STORY ISN'T PAR-TICULARLY UNUSUAL IN RED LIGHT DISTRICTS


KON-SAN HAD THE 2 YEAR OLD YAMAGUKI-SAN, HIS DAUGHTER FROM HIS PREVIOUS WIFE
BUT TOKIWAYA IS A MAJOR DRY GOODS STORE IN NIHONBASHI. SO A BOY HAD TO BE BORN.
I WAS SHAKING WITH FEAR INSIDE BUT I HAD INHERITED ONLY HALF OF THE KUCHINASHI BLOOD, AND MY CHILD WOULD ALSO INHERIT HALF OF MY BLOOD
AND SINCE YAMAGUKI-SAN WOULD EVENTUALLY LEAVE THE HOUSE TO GET MARRIED, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE ALRIGHT
BUT THAT WAS...

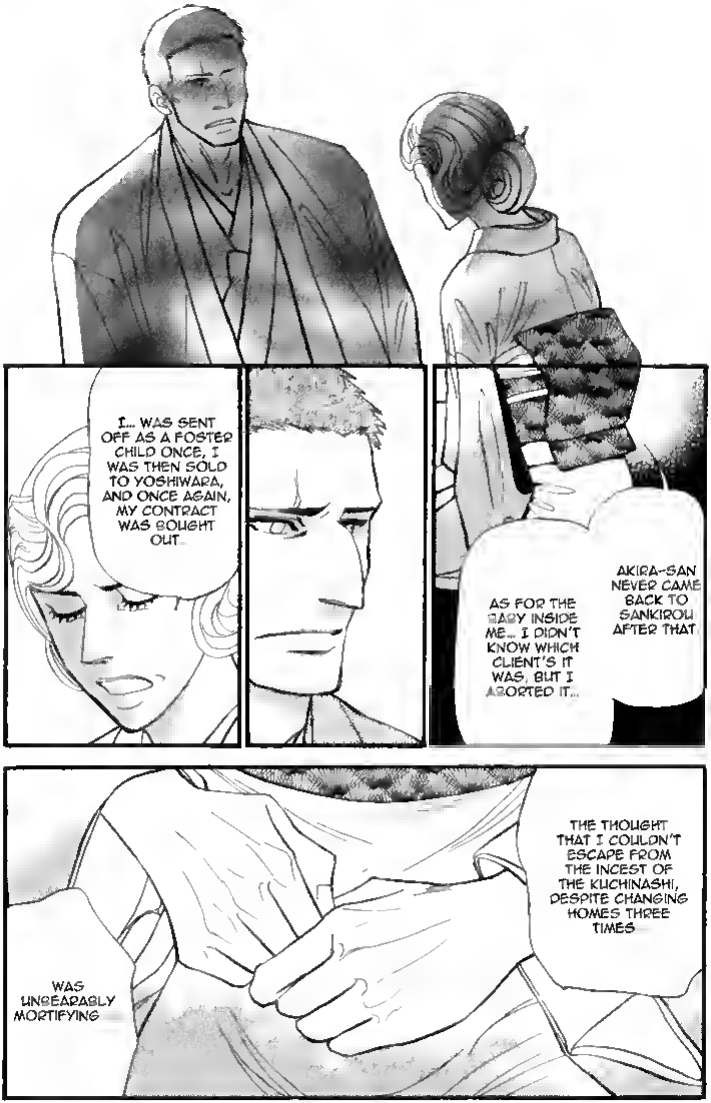
DON'T TOUCH, BIG BROTHER... THAT PLACE IS DIRTY.
HUSH.
CAN'T YOU DO WHAT YOUR BIG BROTHER TELLS YOU TO?
IT FEELS GOOD WHEN YOU PLAY WITH THIS. IT MUST BE THE SAME FOR YOU, CHOUJI.
SUOU 8 YEARS OLD
CHOUJI 7 YEARS OLD
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE!?
GASP
!!
WHY YOU...

LITTLE IDIOT!!
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
MA'AM...
CHOUJI, YOU GET OUT TOO!
QUICKLY!

NO ONE MAY COME IN!
CLOSE
N-
NO!
AAAAA

...RRY
I'M SORRY...
HUUH?
ARE YOU SCARED, SUOU?
sniffle
sniffle
LISTEN UP NEVER DO THAT TO CHOUJI AGAIN
THE SAME GOES FOR BIG SISTER YAMABUKI
THIS IS WHAT YOU TRIED TO DO

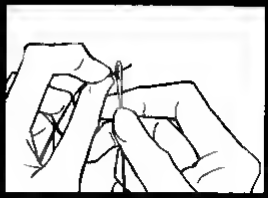
AFTER THAT, WHEN I WAS STILL A SHINZOU IN YOSHIWARA I HAD ONE REGULAR CLIENT.
A NOVICE PROSTITUTE.
WHAT'S A SHINZOU?
I TALKED TO HIM ABOUT THE KUCHINASHI FAMILY.
HE WAS STILL A STUDENT, BUT HE WAS HANDSOME... AND I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT HE LOOKED A BIT LIKE MY FATHER, AS HE WAS ENGRAVED IN MY MEMORIES.
HIS NAME WAS AKIRA-SAN... HE TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE WOULD FINISH UNIVERSITY AND INHERIT THE FAMILY BUSINESS, HE WOULD DEFINITELY BUY OUT MY CONTRACT.
AKIRA-SAN WAS MY OLDER BROTHER, WHO HAD BEEN SENT OFF AS A FOSTER CHILD TO ANOTHER VILLAGE
WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT WAS?
THE THING IS...WHILE WE WERE TELLING EACH OTHER BITS AND PIECES OF OUR LIFE STORIES,
I MADE A TERRIBLE REALIZA-TION.


I... WAS SENT OFF AS A FOSTER CHILD ONCE, I WAS THEN SOLD TO YOSHIWARA, AND ONCE AGAIN, MY CONTRACT WAS BOUGHT OUT...
AS FOR THE BABY INSIDE ME... I DIDN'T KNOW WHICH CLIENT'S IT WAS, BUT I ABORTED IT...
AKIRA-SAN NEVER CAME BACK TO SANKIROU AFTER THAT.
THE THOUGHT THAT I COULDN'T ESCAPE FROM THE INCEST OF THE KUCHINASHI, DESPITE CHANGING HOMES THREE TIMES...
WAS UNBEARABLY MORTIFYING...

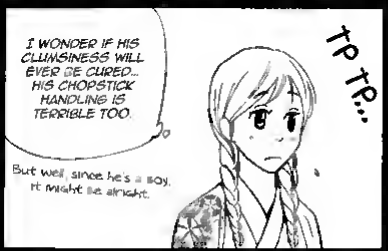
ESPECIALLY SHOU, IF HE BECOMES THE HEIR, THE TOKIWAYA IS SURE TO GO BANKRUPT.
BUT PLEASE, DON'T LET SHOU AND CHOUJI SUCCEED THE YAGUCHI FAMILY.
FOR THAT REASON... I DON'T MIND EVEN IF YOU DIVORCE ME.....
EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE SO KIND TO ME, KON-SAN,
I AM TRULY SORRY...
I UNDER-STAND.
AS FOR THE HOUSE SUCCESSION, WE'LL HAVE YAMAGUKI TAKE A GROOM.
THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT, OUME-CHAN.
smile
YOU MUSTN T GET IN THE BATH TOGETHER OR SLEEP IN THE SAME FUTON EITHER
CHOUJI, YOU MUSTN T LET YOUR BIG BROTHER TOUCH YOUR BODY AGAIN
DEAR...

SINCE THERE WAS NO NEED TO SUCCEED THE FAMILY ANYMORE, I DECIDED TO LET THE TWO OF THEM DO WHATEVER THEY WANTED
I DIDN'T TELL THE KUCHINASHI STORY TO CHOUJI AND YAMABUKI-CHAN
IF POSSIBLE IT WOULD BE BEST IF I NEVER HAD TO TELL THEM.
IT'S A BIT TROUBLESOME THAT HE GOES FOR WOMEN'S CLOTHING, THOUGH---
YOUNG MASTER SHOU LIKES KIMONO, DOESN'T HE?
HEY!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO PLAY WITH THE MERCHANDISE?

Sewing is one with the right hand
HIS GRIP DOESN'T LOOK TOO FIRM... BUT WE HAVE TO CORRECT HIS LEFT-HANDEDNESS

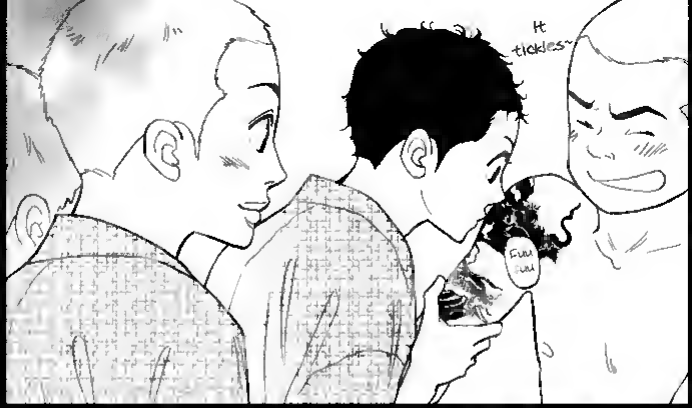


YOU CAN GO
W-WILL-...
SURE I WILL LEAVE THEM HERE


I WONDER IF HIS CLUMSINESS WILL EVER BE CURED... HIS CHOPSTICK HANDLING IS TERRIBLE TOO.
But well, since he's a boy, it might be alright.
TP TP..

FSSSSS
BIG BROTHER KIN-CHAN AND THE REST SAY THEY WANT YOU TO DRAW TATS ON THEM AGAIN

*Senjafuda are are stickers or swaps of paper pasted on the gates of shrines and Buddhist temples in Japan. The stickers bear the name of the worshipper, and can be purchased pre-printed with common names at temples and shrines throughout Japan, as well as at stationery stores and video game centres. Senjafuda were originally made from wooden slats, but have been made of paper since the Edo period.
THAT'S ENOUGH
PUSH
PUSH
COLD!
DOOO NOOOOT MOOOVE
HERE YOU GO, SUO, NEW SENJAFUDA'S!
Instead of payment
SUO-CHAN'S AMAZING~
Heh heh
I KNOW RIGHT? HE EVEN GOES TO A PRIVATE DRAWING SCHOOL.
HSS
HSS
HSS

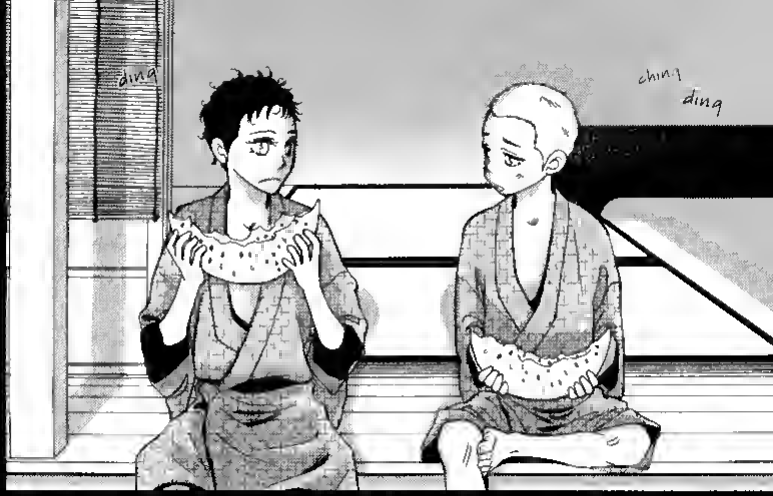

It tickles~
Fuwa wa

I WON'T GO TO THE NEXT SCHOOL
ching
ding ding
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE GRUMBLE

Tilted writing

I HATE STUDYING, AND YOUR SCHOOL RECORD IS BETTER
SO YOU SHOULD GO, CHOUJI.

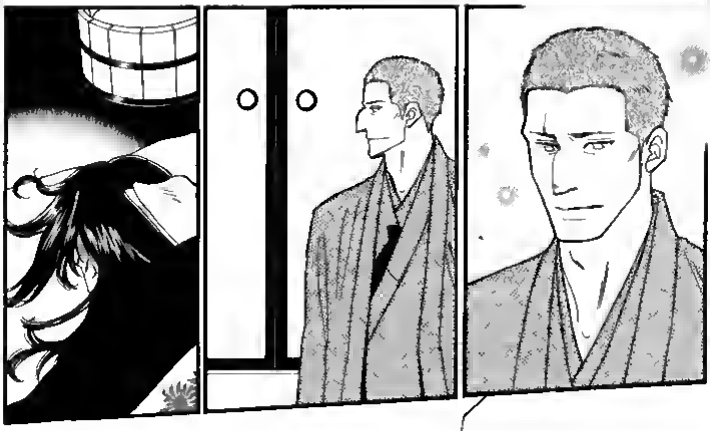
spit
Why is this so faint?
ding
chang
YOU'LL LEAVE THE HOUSE, BIG BROTHER!?
DAD SAID HE WOULD LET ME BECOME THE APPRENTICE OF AN ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS WHO'S A YUUZEN CRAFTSMAN.
YOU CAN'T GO
IT'S NO FUN WHEN I'M WITH BIG SISTER
I DON'T KNOW...


ding
chin-
ding

DEAR...
IT'S ALRIGHT EVEN IF HE DOESN'T HAVE MY BLOOD

THUS THEY BECAME 4 SIBLINGS FROM DIFFERENT MOTHERS
COME ON YOU GUYS, SAY HELLO TO THE YOUNGEST CHILD OF THE FAMILY!
WELL, HE LOOKS JUST LIKE HIS FATHER!
OH, LOOK OVER THERE...
SURPRISINGLY WE HAD TAKEN A PHOTO TOGETHER, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE I PUT IT
WHEN I MOVED OUT AN INTERPRETER CALLED SHIZU-CHAN HAD COME TO THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT AND HER SON HAD FOREIGN BLOOD...
HEEH? I MIGHT KNOW HIM
He's really famous
I'VE HEARD THAT THERE'S A "RED DEMON" IN THE ARMY WITH FOREIGN BLOOD MIXED IN HIS, SO IT MUST BE HIM.

LOOKING BACK, THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE MOST PEACEFUL TIME OF OUR LIVES
Ah ha ha ha
OH PLEASE!
HEY NOW, DON'T STARE TOO HARD
THEY SAY HE'S AS FRIGHTENING AS A DEMON
SWALLOW YOU GUYS DOWN IN ONE GULP!



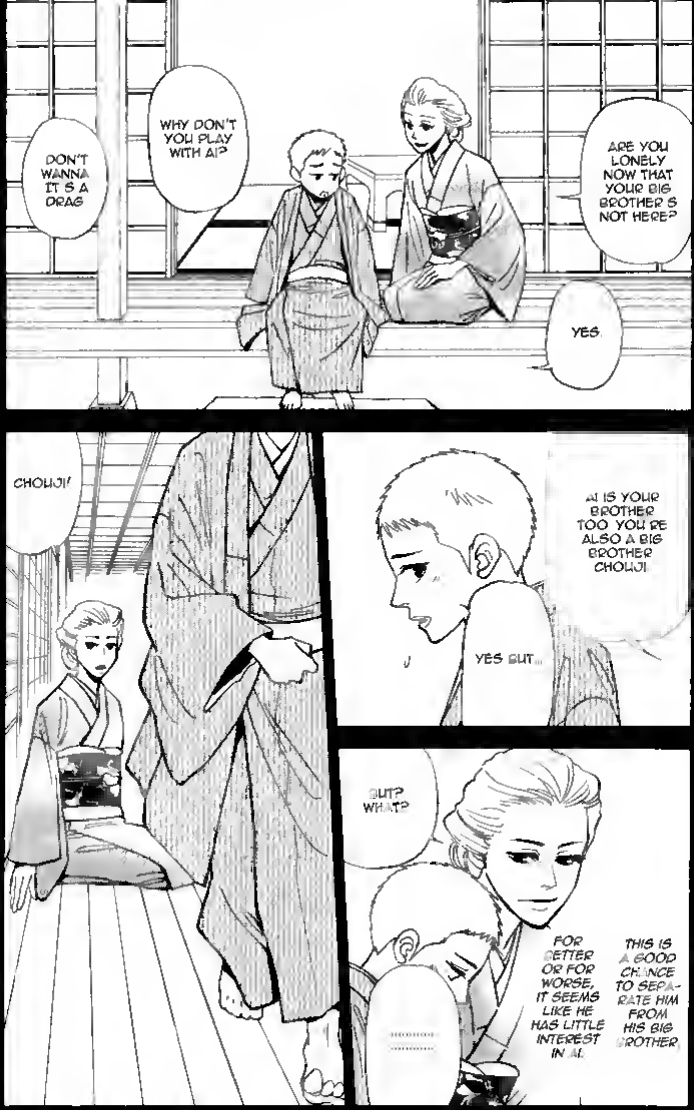
CHOUJI.

RELAX THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF
UH...
HERE, GRAB ON TO ME.
kiss
kiss
H
H
H

WHO
IS THE MAN HOLDING YOU RIGHT NOW?
SAY IT, CHOUJI.
IWAGO...!!
.....WA-
CAN'T HEAR YOU.
I, WAGO
ONE MORE TIME
BIG BROTHER...
THAT'S RIGHT...MAKE SURE YOU REMEMBER IT WELL, WITH YOUR BODY.

WHERE'S BIG BROTHER!?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WHINE LIKE THIS.
HE LEFT WITHOUT TELLING ME ANYTHING!? THAT'S SO MEAN!
DON'T TELL SHOU'S WHEREABOUTS TO CHOUJI. HE MIGHT GO AFTER HIM.
GIVE HIM JUST THE CONTENTS OF THE ENVELOPE
WHAT SHOULD WE DO IN CASE A LETTER ARRIVES?
DON'T WORRY. HE'LL COME BACK ON BON" AND AT THE END OF THE YEAR

*Bon is a Japanese Buddhist custom to honor the spirits of one's ancestors. This Buddhist-Confucian custom has evolved into a family reunion holiday during which people return to ancestral family places and visit and clean their ancestors' graves, and when the spirits of ancestors are supposed to revisit the household altars. Bon is celebrated on the 15th August in Tokyo.


DON'T WANNA IT'S A DRAG
WHY DON'T YOU PLAY WITH AI?
ARE YOU LONELY NOW THAT YOUR BIG BROTHER'S NOT HERE?
YES.
CHOUJI!
AI IS YOUR BROTHER TOO. YOU'RE ALSO A BIG BROTHER CHOUJI.
YES BUT...
BUT? WHAT?
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, IT SEEMS LIKE HE HAS LITTLE INTEREST IN AI.
THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE TO SEPARATE HIM FROM HIS BIG BROTHER.
.....
.....

BIG BROTHER!
BIG BROTHER'S GONE

IF YOU'RE FREE, PLAY WITH AI.
I'M NOT FREE.
SHOULD WE HAVE CHOUJI TAKE UP LESSONS?
Some kind of physical activity.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
KYAAAAAAA!
WHAT'S THIS HEAD? A SPARROW NEST!?
I'M HOME, CHOUJI!
NO ONE GETS REALLY ANGRY AT ME ABOUT IT?

LET'S GO TO KIN-CHAN'S PLACE!
OOH... WELL...
IF SHOU HIMSELF AND HIS MASTER, TANI-SAN AGREE...
I'M SO SORRY, KON-SAN, FOR SENDING YOUR SON FROM ONE PLACE TO THE OTHER AS IF HE WERE A KITTEN.
BUT THIS MAN HAS BEEN SO INSIS-TENT ABOUT IT
WELL, IF YOU'RE GOING TO SAY AS MUCH, IT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER TOO
HELLO I'M A DYER, KATSUOKA
SHOU-KUN HAS AMAZING TALENT. I WOULD DEFINITELY LIKE TO BRING HIM UP WITH MY OWN HANDS
BIG BROTHER MOVED TO ANOTHER WORKSHOP, BUT THAT YEAR, HE DIDN'T COME BACK ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.
HE DIDN'T COME BACK ON BON, OR ON NEW YEAR'S DAY OF THE NEXT YEAR, EITHER.

I'M HOME
EVEN IF I SENT HIM LETTERS, HE KEPT ON SINGLE-MINDEDLY REPEATING "I'M TOO BUSY WITH MY TRAINING TO COME BACK HOME"
I ADVANCED TO MIDDLE SCHOOL
SINCE HE WAS A BOY, MY PARENTS WEREN'T ALL THAT WORRIED
YOUNG MASTER SHOU HAS COME BACK BUT-
UH..
STOMP
YOUNG MASTER CHOUJI!
STOMP
DO WE HAVE A GUEST?
These aren't my sister's.

STOMP
STOMP
BIG BROTHER
BIG BROTHER!
SLIDE

...CHOU?!

Iro Otoko

彩おとこ

by Toribito Hiromi

CHAPTER 9

Scanner:

Translators:

Editors:

Cleaner:

BLUE SPRING SCANS
(HTTP://BLUESPRINGSCANS.LIVEJOURNAL.COM/)
DO NOT SHARE OR REUPLOAD!!